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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1943.

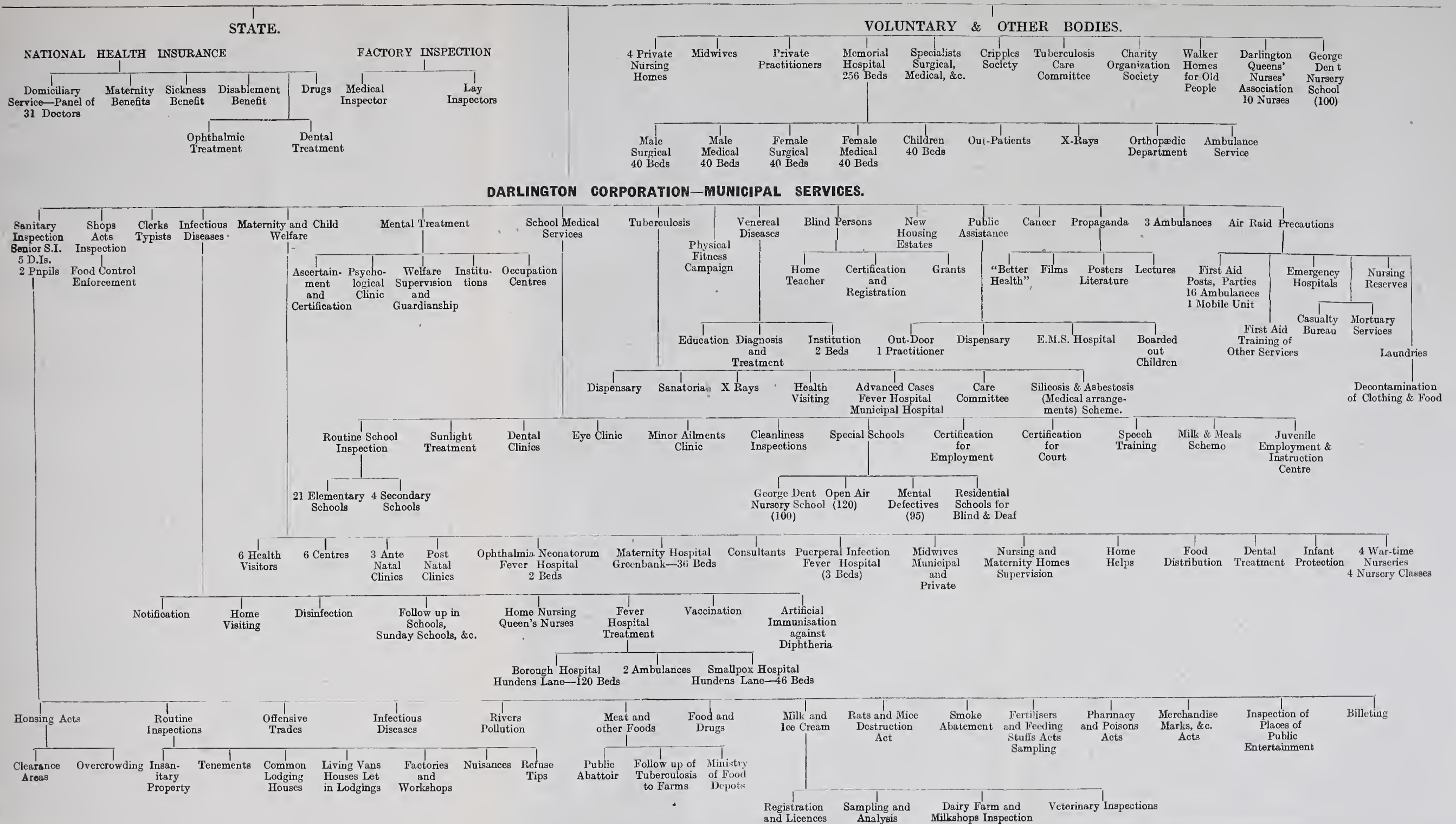
G. A. DAWSON, M.D., D.P.H.,


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF CORPORATION HOSPITALS.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN DARLINGTON COUNTY BOROUGH—1943.





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STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Chief Tuberculosis Medical Officer, Medical Certifier under Mental Deficiency Acts, Medical Examiner of Corporation Employees	GEORGE A. DAWSON, M.D., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Venereal Diseases Medical Officer, Assistant School Medical Officer	WILLIAM E. ORCHARD, M.D., D.P.H. (on Active Service).
Temporary Deputy Medical Officer of Health	KAMEL GIRGIS M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H. (till 28th June, 1943). FRANK A. PAUL, L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H. (from 1st July, 1943).
Temporary Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare	ROSETTA HILL, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (till 30th April, 1943). CATHERINE W. HARRIES, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc. (from 5th Sept., 1943).
Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Tuberculosis and Public Assistance	FRANK A. PAUL, L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer, Public Assistance Committee	C. D. STONE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (on Active Service).
Temporary Assistant Medical Officer	ARTHUR INGHAM, M.B., Ch.B.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health, for Schools, and Public Vaccinator.	WINIFRED M. RYAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (from 1st Sept., 1943).
Schools and Health Dental Officer	J. L. LIDDELL, L.D.S. (on Active Service).
Temporary Dental Officers (half-time)	N. WILKINSON, L.D.S. T. H. SMAILES, L.D.S.
Radiologist	W. CRICHTON FOTHERGILL, M.D., D.M.R.E.
Public Analyst	C. J. H. STOCK, B.Sc., F.I.C.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	A. E. WADE.
Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector	F. WARD.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	ED. CANHAM (till 31st May, 1943). J. H. BURROWS. A. CORNICK. J. R. WHITE (till 31st Jan., 1943). L. OATES (from 16th Aug., 1943).

Shops Inspector	....	....	....	H. R. KIRK (seconded as Staff Officer, Civil Defence Casualty Services).
Temporary Shops Inspector	....	....	....	JAMES SMITH.
Senior Health Visitor	....	....	....	MISS A. M. MCILWAINE, S.C.M., S.R.N.
District Health Visitors and Infant Protection Officers				MISS E. H. FLEETHAM, H.V.C., S.C.M., S.R.N. MISS M. MILESTONE, H.V.C., S.C.M., S.R.N. MRS. V. M. ANDERSON, H.V.C., S.C.M., S.R.N. MISS E. WINCH, H.V.C., S.C.M., S.R.N. MISS V. I. SMILES.
Matron Infectious Diseases and Smallpox Hospitals				MISS GAYNOR L. PRITCHARD, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.F.N.
Matron Maternity Hospital	....	....	....	MISS KATE I. KEMP, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Superintendent Nurse Municipal Hospital				MISS A. MORAN, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Mental Welfare Supervisor	....	....	....	MISS R. ROBINSON (from 1st March, 1943).
Blind Welfare and Tuberculosis Almoner...				MISS N. BLACK.

Municipal Midwives.

MRS. E. HARRIS, S.C.M.
MRS. F. R. HAWLEY, S.C.M.
MRS. I. WILSON, S.C.M.

Matrons of Nurseries.

Station Road—MRS. E. ALEXANDER, S.C.M.
Hundens Lane—MRS. M. FORSTER, S.R.N.
Albert Hill—MRS. A. W. KNOWLES, S.R.C.N.
North Road—MRS. E. WILSON, S.R.N.

Maternity and Child Welfare Home Help				MISS L. ROBINSON.
Matron, Queen's Nurses' Association	....	....	....	MISS HOLMES, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Registrar of Births, &c.	....	....	....	E. K. CORLETT.
Chief Clerk, Health Centre...	....	....	....	E. C. STAINSBY.
Vaccination Officer	....	....	....	MISS DORIS HUTTON.
Clerical Staff	....	....	....	MISS F. E. GIBBON. MRS. A. T. MOUNSEY. MISS D. HUTTON. MISS F. I. GOODWILL. I. BURNLEY, S. DALEY, D. G. WARDE (on Active Service).
Temporary Clerks	....	....	....	MRS. D. WARD. H. EVANS. MISS E. SCOTT. MRS. G. LANCASTER (till 11/11/43)
V.D. Orderly	....	....	....	J. T. H. LITTON.
Home Visitor for Blind	....	....	....	C. F. COOKE.
Rat Catcher (part-time)	....	....	....	J. R. OXLEY.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Eighteenth Annual Report on the health of the town. It is necessarily curtailed and condensed for national reasons, and one must wait for the more propitious days of peace before publishing the Registrar General's or our own confidential figures showing the increased activities and development of our town and population.

With pleasure, I can assure you the statistics are most satisfactory in this our fifth year of war when the enemy threatened all manner of evil visitations. Instead, we now see convincing signs of victory, with a surprising absence of epidemics or any serious deterioration in the nation's physical well-being despite war-time worries, black-out, overcrowding, shortage of housing, food rationing, long hours of employment and anxiety over loved ones.

The constant vigilance and extension of the Health Services, wise rationing, additional feeding facilities in British Restaurants, schools, works canteens and for young children and expectant mothers, have all played their part and should remain even in our post-war schemes.

Births numbered 1,234, a rate of 16.0 per 1,000, which is not materially different from those of the preceding 5 years. Illegitimate births numbered 83—a figure approximately double the pre-war one—an unfortunate evidence of the laxity of morals and social behaviour. The problem is growing and the figure for 1944 so far threatens to be doubled again so that adequate care and attention will be demanded from Welfare Organisations, Municipal and voluntary, for the sake of the unmarried mother, the broken homes and the unfortunate children.

The term "illegitimate" was formerly applied only to children of unmarried mothers, but to-day one is compelled to have regard to those children born to mothers in wedlock where the husbands are absent from home and do not accept paternity. The Ministry of Health has drawn the attention of local authorities to the desirability of intensive social welfare for the supervision of these mothers and children who have to face a difficult future.

It is an interesting observation on our present statistics with such a low birth rate, in anticipation of Beveridge's Social Insurance Scheme, that the present population between 18 and 60 years of age—the working and earning group—will have to maintain in round figures an equal number outside these limits, mostly school children and pensioners.

The infantile mortality rate was reasonably low, 52.7 per 1,000 births. Even in the case of illegimates, a high degree of welfare has always been maintained. Out of 83 illegimates born, only 5 died during the year.

Approximately 40% (550) of the children were born in the Greenbank Municipal Maternity Hospital which is increasing rapidly in popularity beyond its capacity of 36 beds.

Expectant mothers have been urged to take advantage of the priority milk, dried food, orange juice and cod liver oil liberally provided by the Ministry of Food and the local authority. Over 15,000 lbs. were distributed

Deaths numbered 1,044, a rate of 13.5 per 1,000. Only 65 occurred under one year, 6 from 1—2 years and 15 at 2—5 years, while 524—over 50%—occurred in citizens over 6 years of age. I have taken out figures for 1913, 1923 and 1933 showing the steady trend. Had the death rate of 1913 applied to the present population there would have been 180 deaths under 1 year, 37 at 1—2 years, and 61 at 2—5 years, 39 at 5—15 years and 51 at 15—25 years, while 276 (approximately one quarter) would have died in age groups over 65—a striking tribute to our Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Services in saving life in the early age groups today.

It is evident from these figures, that the greater proportion of our deaths now occur in the worn-out age groups—due to degenerative diseases of the heart and blood vessels. Cancer and pulmonary diseases rank next in order.

Infectious Diseases.

Acute infectious disease plays a relatively negligible part in our mortality figures—Typhoid (0), Cerebro-spinal Fever (2), Scarlet Fever (0), Whooping Cough (4), Diphtheria (8), Influenza (11), Measles (4), Infantile paralysis (1), Puerperal Sepsis (2), Infective Diarrhoea (2), so that speaking generally one can claim a very high degree of protection against the usual preventable infections.

Immunisation against Diphtheria has been pressed during the past 10 years and we appear now to be reaping the benefits, but one is often surprised at the weak objections still held even when death from this insidious disease invades a home. Those eight deaths all occurred in unimmunised children who need not have died but for the stubborn refusal and neglect of the parents to take advantage of the freely offered help in clinic and school.

A total of 844 under 5 years, and 925 from 5—15 years was done during the year, bringing the immunisations in 10 years to over 8,000 not including private cases. Not one of these 8,000 cases has died from Diphtheria while 90 children (who had not been immunised in the same period) died from the dread disease.

A serious case of Diphtheria may remain in hospital for 4 months and costs in treatment alone approximately £80, a sum sufficient to immunise 600 children in one of our clinics. A death from Diphtheria is an irreparable loss which need not occur. The protection by immunisation has been clearly demonstrated in Canada and among the more enlightened of our own people, here in Darlington. Responsibility now rests with every parent to see that children are safeguarded when one year old.

War-time Nurseries.

Our scheme of providing for the children of working mothers was extended by the opening of Albert Hill Nursery on 15th September, 1943, by the Mayoress, Mrs. B. Jackson, and North Road Nursery on 2nd February, 1944, by Mrs. A. J. Best. Each has accommodation for 80 children and is open day and night for 6 days per week, closing Saturday 1 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Sunday. Altogether now with Station Road, Hundens Lane, the Nursery Classes and George Dent Nursery School, we have accommodation for over 560 children under 5 years of age, largely from homes where the mother is employed on work of national importance. Occasionally one finds that there is a temptation for some mothers to use the good facilities as a convenient repository for illegitimate and unwanted children while they take up other pursuits than useful national service. The children have improved through the regular well organised discipline, exercise, feeding and rest.

Tuberculosis.

The scheme of financial assistance under Memo. 266T. came into force 1st July, 1943. During the year ending June, 1944, 31 patients had received the grant—15 in Institutions and 16 on domiciliary care. Total amount paid out was £1,555 14s. 6d., which includes a coal allowance of 3/6 per week to each patient who was a householder during the winter months. Twelve patients have returned to work and 15 were still in receipt of grant. Hardships have arisen through the discrimination between curable and incurable cases and the exclusion of non-pulmonary cases, but the staff have all exercised the greatest tact in trying to observe the official directions in a very unpleasant duty.

There has been no serious increase in notifications or deaths during the year, and it seems that the heavy incidence which occurred in 1919 is not so far being repeated, thanks to our continued watchfulness and care of early cases.

Venereal Diseases.

No serious increase has been reflected in the attendances at the special clinics in Darlington. Out of 326 new cases attending 206 were found to be non-venereal. The 120 true cases were, 82 gonorrhoea and 38 syphilis. Congenital syphilis only accounted for 4 cases. Popular propaganda in Press and Cinema has brought the subject into the open forum of discussion. Patients now continue to attend right up to final test of cure with a minimum of default.

Scabies and Verminous Conditions.

A very welcome improvement has been noted during 1943 in the general hygiene of the citizens following the cleanliness drive last year. Cases of scabies and lice infestation have been zealously followed up by School Nurses, Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors, so that not only the patients but the contacts and homes have been brought under supervision. The use of Benzyl Benzoate for Scabies and Lethane Oil for verminous heads has by one application saved repeated visits and inspections by the staff. The excuse that so many mothers are employed is not a sufficient reason for the increased incidence of verminous heads in adolescent girls.

There were 499 cases of Scabies and 1,042 verminous children treated by the department.

We are like every other department, heavily handicapped by shortage of staff, but those remaining, with the help of temporary staff have worked faithfully and well and I take this opportunity of thanking them for a good year's service. The Committee will appreciate that only the most urgent of matters have been attended to, and one looks forward with hope that peace will bring much needed social improvements in housing and social reform.

G. A. DAWSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The figures for birth and death-rates are based on our own returns corrected for inward and outward transfers.

During the year ended 31st December, 1943, the number of births assignable to the Borough was 1,234 births, 639 of males and 595 of females. Excluding the deaths of 123 non-residents, there were 1,044 deaths, 515 of males and 469 of females and 60 transfers. These figures give a birth-rate of 16.0, and a death-rate of 13.5 per 1,000 of an estimated population of 77,400 compared with 15.7 and 12.1 last year. Provisional figures for England and Wales, birth rate 16.5, death rate 12.1, Infantile Mortality 49.

The deaths occurred at the following ages :—

Under 1 week	....	26	} Total 65	1— 2 years	....	6
1— 2 weeks	....	2		2— 5 „	....	15
2— 3 „	....	3		5—15 „	....	17
3— 4 „	....	0		15—25 „	....	28
1— 3 months	....	10		25—45 „	....	90
3— 6 „	....	9		45—65 „	....	299
6— 9 „	....	12	}	65—75 „	....	232
9—12 „	....	3		75 years and upwards	....	292

Still-births registered, 40 ; Infantile Mortality Rate, 52.7 per 1,000 births.

Illegitimate Infants Born, Males, 41 ; Females, 42 ; Total, 83. Died, 5.

Institutional Deaths :—		Residents.	Non-Residents.	Total.
Municipal Institution	....	129	2	131
Memorial Hospital	....	168	112	280
Borough Isolation Hospital	....	17	3	20
Greenbank Maternity Hospital		9	3	12
Nursing Homes	....	11	4	15
Institutions outside Borough....		30	—	30

Inquests held, 49.

Uncertified Deaths, 41.

Comparative Age-group Mortality.

		0.	1.	2.	5.	15.	25.	45.	65.	75.+	Total.
1943	....	65	6	15	17	28	90	299	232	292	1,044
1933	....	84	22	13	26	54	103	288	255	199	1,044
1923	....	174	43	36	35	50	135	230	163	168	1,034
1913	....	180	37	61	39	51	129	221	135	141	994

Deaths occurred from the following causes :—

WARD	Harrowgate Hill	North Road	Cockerton	Northgate	Pierremont	Central	North-East	Eastbourne	West	South	TOTAL	Inward Transfers	GRAND TOTAL
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Cerebro-spinal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	2
3 Scarlet fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Whooping cough ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	1	4
5 Diphtheria ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	...	...	8	...	8
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	5	7	6	5	4	8	4	5	1	3	48	7	55
7 Other forms of tuberculosis ...	5	...	3	...	1	...	1	...	3	1	14	...	14
8 Syphilitic disease ...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	3
9 Influenza ...	1	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	3	...	10	1	11
10 Measles ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	4	...	4
11 Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
12 Acute infectious encephalitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	2
13M Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus ...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	5
13F Cancer of uterus ...	...	...	3	1	1	...	1	...	1	2	9	...	9
14 Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	3	6	5	...	1	1	3	3	3	28	...	28
15 Cancer of breast ...	5	1	1	...	3	...	...	1	2	2	15	3	18
16 Cancer of all other sites ...	10	8	8	10	4	8	10	6	8	7	79	7	86
17 Diabetes ...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	2	2	8	...	8
18 Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	3	4	3	3	3	3	...	5	8	4	36	1	37
19 Heart disease ...	14	12	18	18	9	14	12	14	27	20	158	11	169
20 Other diseases of the circulatory system ...	11	5	12	6	16	14	18	6	12	16	116	5	121
21 Bronchitis... ...	4	7	6	3	...	15	10	5	2	2	54	2	56
22 Pneumonia ...	7	2	2	2	3	8	7	6	...	3	40	...	40
23 Other respiratory diseases ...	...	1	1	1	...	...	3	4	...	2	12	1	13
24 Ulceration of the stomach or duodenum ...	1	...	2	1	1	...	2	1	...	...	8	2	10
25 Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	2
26 Appendicitis ...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	2	1	7	...	7
27 Other digestive diseases ...	1	1	2	1	6	5	6	3	4	2	31	1	32
28 Nephritis ...	4	1	2	5	3	2	1	5	5	4	32	1	33
29 Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	2
30 Other maternal causes ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	3
31 Premature birth ...	3	...	...	3	1	...	1	3	3	3	17	...	17
32 Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease ...	2	3	3	2	...	...	4	1	1	...	16	2	18
33 Suicide ...	1	1	...	...	...	1	2	2	2	1	10	...	10
34 Road traffic accidents ...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	4	2	6
35 Other violent causes ...	3	4	1	...	1	1	1	2	2	3	18	4	22
36 All other causes ...	20	20	21	17	13	11	18	19	21	19	179	9	188
Totals ...	108	85	104	92	72	94	111	101	114	103	984	60	1044

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE.	Borough Cases				Cases removed to and Deaths in Isolation Hospital							
	Total Cases Notified		Total Deaths		From Borough				From Rural and other Districts			
					Cases		Deaths		Cases		Deaths	
	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	101	1	...	...	79	1	...	...	31	34	...	...
Diphtheria	305	1	8	...	300	4	7	...	21	30	1	...
Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Erysipelas	27	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	2	2	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	16	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Babies with Mothers	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pneumonia	83	...	40	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Measles and German Measles	861	2	4	...	10	...	2	...	11	29	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	122	...	48	...	30	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	25	...	14	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	264	...	3	...	3	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	15	...	2	...	14	...	2	...	4	11	...	2
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Conditions ... ..	...	...	...	...	11	3	...	...	1	28	...	...
Malaria Relapse	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ictantus Neonatorum ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ...	1824	4	122	...	464	8	18	...	76	137	2	2

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTION (Hospital Section), YARM ROAD :—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
In	45	37	11	93
Admitted	226	157	36	419
Discharged	156	95	44	295
Deaths	78	50	3	131
Remaining	37	49	0	86

Rate-aided persons of unsound mind not included above :—

Residential	10 Men.	12 Women	Total 22
Out-relief	5 „	7 „	12

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

NOTIFIED BIRTHS :—		Males		Females		Total	
		Leg.	Ill.	Leg.	Ill.	Leg.	Ill.
Live-Births ....	...	625	21	604	19	1,229	40
Still-Births ....	...	23	1	20	3	43	4
Total ....	...	648	22	624	22	1,272	44
By Midwives ....	...	361		338		699	
By Doctors ....	...	11		10		21	
By Parents ....	...	0		0		0	
By Midwives in Institutions ....	...	298		298		596	
By Doctors in Institutions ....	...	0		0		0	

		Patients				Days'
	In	Admitted	Discharged	Deaths	Remaining	Treatment
Greenbank Maternity Hospital	.... 18	554	549	4	19	9,034

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.—6 on Register, 4 new, 1 child was adopted by foster parents without reward, 4 children were returned to their parents, 1 child attained the age of 9 years, 4 now on Register. 64 visits and 139 office interviews. 37 advertisements were investigated. In addition many telephone enquiries were dealt with regarding suitable homes, adoptions, and such matters.

CENTRES.—Mothers and Babies, attendances, 15,242. Ante-natals 5,196. 13,800 lbs. Dried Milk sold. 133 lbs. free.

DENTAL TREATMENT.—Mothers, 33; Children under 5 years, 11; Total 44. Total attendances, 71; Extractions, 153; Sockets treated, 0; Dentures supplied to 3 persons; Anæsthetics, 10; Scalings, 0; Repairs to Dentures, 0; Fillings, 0; other operations, 0.

HOME HELPS.—Cases, 30. Days' Service, 356.

MIDWIVES' ACTS.—Emergency calls to Doctors, 154. Inspector's Visits, 81.

HEALTH VISITORS :—	First Visits	Re-Visits	Total Visits
Expectant Mothers.....	294	.... 80	.... 374
Infants under 1 year	1,251	.... 3,131	.... 4,382
Children 1 to 5 years .....	—	.... 8,429	.... 8,429
Infectious Diseases	316	.... 5	.... 321
Infant Deaths	53	.... 0	.... 53
Still-Births	35	.... 0	.... 35
Miscellaneous Visits	390	.... 121	.... 511
Maternal Deaths	2	.... —	.... 2
Illegitimate Children	13	.... 161	.... 174
Adoptions	6	.... 9	.... 15

QUEEN'S NURSES' ASSOCIATION :—

Maternity Cases	97	.... 1,565	.... 1,662
Midwifery Cases	199	.... 3,928	.... 4,127
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	.... 21	.... 22
Acute Primary Pneumonia	23	.... 577	.... 600
Children under 5 years	137	.... 756	.... 893

VACCINATION :—

Births Registered, 1,316; Successful Vaccinations, 407; Conscientious Objections, 848; Insusceptibility, 12; Died before Vaccination under 1 year 65.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—844 under 5 years, 925 at 5—15 years. Total since 1935, 8,000.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.

	Darlington			Other Authorities	
	Males	Females		Males	Females
Suspected Venereal Diseases—New Cases	137	103	....	61	48
Non-Venereal Diseases	69	72	....	28	37
Total Attendances of all persons	2,467	1,574	....	783	447
In-patient Days	60	—	....	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Sanatoria	In			Admitted			Discharged			Deaths			Remaining		
	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.
Stannington	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hollywood Hall	3	—	—	3	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Blencathra	5	5	—	6	9	—	8	7	—	—	3	—	3	4	—
Borough Isolation Hospital	—	4	—	—	27	2	—	24	1	—	5	1	—	2	—
Memorial Hospital	—	3	—	12	3	9	11	5	9	1	1	—	—	—	—
Municipal Institution	12	—	1	32	1	3	27	1	3	9	—	1	8	—	—
Poole Sanatorium	—	3	—	16	8	—	8	8	—	—	1	—	8	2	—
Liverpool Sanatorium Frodsham, Cheshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Orthopædic Hospital, Kirbymoorside	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2

Apparatus provided or repaired for 5 necessitous patients as follows :—

New Walking Caliper (2 cases).	New Spinal Brace (1 case).
New Surgical Boots (2 cases).	Repairs to Surgical Boots (1 case)
Railway Warrants issued—38.	Fares paid—2.
X-ray examinations—	
Dispensary	121
Dr. Fothergill	197

Total 318

DOMICILIARY VISITS :—

	First Visits.	Re-visits.	Total.
Health Visitors	130	720	850
Queen's Nurses' Association	8	288	296
Total	138	1008	1146

Dispensary Attendances—1,371.

Doctors' Home Visits—27.

Other Consultations—25.

Letters—249.

War-time Nurseries.

	On Roll.	Average Attendances.	
		Day.	Night.
Hundens Lane	79	42	17
Station Road	33	24	—
Albert Hill (opened 30/8/1943)	51	31	14

CLASSES.

St. William's R.C.	33	27	—
Rise Carr	70	48	—
Borough Road	68	47	—
Corporation Road (opened 24/5/43)	71	51	—

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Under Treatment.

There were under treatment this year 326 new cases as compared with 315 last year.

Of the 326 cases, 206 were found to be non-venereal; the corresponding figure for 1942 was 165.

There were thus 120 new cases of venereal disease during 1943 and of these 38 were found to be suffering from Syphilis and 82 from Gonorrhœa.

Syphilis cases show a marked decrease from the previous year when the number of new cases was 81. The figure for Gonorrhœa shows little change, there being 69 cases last year. There were no cases of soft Chancre.

Cases of congenital Syphilis attending the clinic for the first time numbered only 4, whereas 13 were reported in 1942.

The very considerable increase in non-venereal cases would appear to suggest that the propaganda campaign to combat the venereal diseases is bearing fruit, there being more suspected cases attending the clinic than was formerly the case. Many also come wishing to be reassured of no real justification for any anxiety; and in the majority of such cases the propaganda campaign has been responsible for this. The campaign will therefore not be in vain if it serves the purpose—as seems to be the case—of breaking down the barriers of mock modesty which have unfortunately hitherto existed in relation to the venereal diseases, and make people less hesitant to seek advice.

People nowadays appear to be less reluctant to discuss such matters than formerly, which is as it should be. No doubt in the future such things will be spoken of still more freely.

Cases Transferred from Other Areas.

These numbered only 23, a decrease of 42 from last year. This was entirely due to service patients ceasing to be treated at civilian clinics, as shown by the number of transfers of civilian patients which were 18 this year and 16 last year and 18 in 1941.

Discharged Cured.

There were 18 such cases of Syphilis in 1943 and 14 in 1942. For Gonorrhœa the corresponding figures for the two years were respectively 60 and 42. The increased number of Gonorrhœa cases discharged cured is in conformity with the increased number of new cases of Gonorrhœa treated during the year.

Ceased Attendance before completing Treatment.

This year there were 63 cases and last year 80. In 1943, 10 of these were service patients and in 1942, 23. This makes the civilian defaulters rate slightly less this year than last year.

Cases Transferred to other Areas.

Here again the difference in the figures for this year and last year—being respectively 33 and 47—was due to service patients ceasing to be treated at civilian clinics; there being only 8 service patients transferred this year, whereas last year's figure was 28.

Number of Attendances for Treatment.

This figure was 5,271 compared with last year's figure of 4,713, an increase of 558.

In-Patients.

Three persons received in-patient treatment at the Municipal Hospital as compared with 2 last year.

Pathological Work.

This work included 11 examinations with the dark ground lens of the microscope. Last year there were 35 dark ground examinations, when as already mentioned the number of new cases of Syphilis was very much greater.

With the ordinary oil immersion lens of the microscope 596 smears from suspected cases of Gonorrhœa were examined. In the previous year there were 651 smears.

Regulation 33B.

Under this regulation, which came into operation in 1943, persons contracting venereal disease are asked to give the name and address of the consort if known.

The number of persons notified to us under the above regulations as being possible sources of infection was 9, all of them females; there was not one case in which the female disclosed the identity of the male. In the above 9 cases attempts were made in 8 to establish contact. Four were found but only 1 presented herself for examination, the other 3 failing to comply with our request. The remaining 4 were never traced owing to the wrong name or wrong address being given, which is to be expected in view of such things so frequently arising out of a chance meeting, and after only a very brief acquaintance.

Nevertheless, the new regulation is a step in the right direction by controlling the disease in at least some of the guilty people, who would otherwise inevitably spread the disease to others.

With compulsory attendance at a clinic of such cases when reported, perhaps a greater measure of success could be expected.

F. A. PAUL,
Clinical V.D. Officer.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Dispensary Work.

During 1943, 1,348 persons attended the Dispensary as compared with 1,100 in 1942 and 922 in 1941.

The steady increase in the incidence is to be expected in wartime, with people working long hours and very often living in overcrowded and badly ventilated surroundings, coupled with anxiety.

The publicity given in the newspapers, cinema, etc., however, is undoubtedly partly responsible for more patients attending the Clinic.

Government Scheme.—Memo. 266T.

In 12 months ending 30th June, 1944, 31 patients have received help, 13 in Sanatoria, 2 in Hospital and 16 on domiciliary and dispensary care at a cost of £1,556, which included winter coal allowance of 3/6 per week.

Twelve patients returned to work, 2 grants were cancelled on account of unsatisfactory behaviour in Sanatoria, and 2 died, leaving 15 still in receipt of help and progressing satisfactorily.

The scheme is an excellent one and allows early cases of the disease to remain from work until they are well. This usually means a period of at least six months, during which time they receive an allowance which is more or less adequate for their requirements and reduces financial worries.

In the past a large proportion of patients have gone to work when they were quite unfit to do so, because of their financial position, and almost invariably have gone rapidly downhill as a result.

The scheme, of course, applies only to early acute cases. Perhaps it would have been better if it had been laid down to include all cases, whether acute or chronic, early or advanced, although with many such cases there is no hope of them ever being able to work again. Nevertheless a scheme extended to include them would have the effect of prolonging their life under happier conditions.

Radiography.

There were 320 X-ray examinations this year as compared with 339 in 1942.

Mass Radiography.

A recent and valuable innovation in the campaign against tuberculosis is mass radiography; which by its application through time to the entire population, will furnish an opportunity of detecting symptomless pulmonary tuberculosis and of catching the disease in the early curable stage. Unfortunately at the present day one sees very few such cases.

It will too have the additional advantage of detecting infected persons before they have had time to spread the disease to others.

In short, mass radiography should eventually produce a very considerable decline in the incidence of the condition.

Pathological Work.

We made 468 sputum examinations during the year. Last year there were 337 such examinations.

All of this work was carried out at the Health Centre.

Contacts.

Fifty-five contacts were investigated and of these 5 were found to be infected. The corresponding figures for last year were respectively 36 and 7.

The following up of the contacts is rigidly adhered to because herein lies an opportunity of detecting early cases.

Deaths.

The figure—53 deaths this year (of which 9 were not notified) was considerably higher than last year's figure, 36. The higher figure needs no explanation in the light of present day conditions. The influenza epidemic in the later months of the year was responsible for a number of deaths, even its mildest form being a serious complication of pulmonary tuberculosis.

P.H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Under these regulations any person suffering from respiratory tuberculosis shall not be allowed to handle milk.

No such cases were dealt with this year.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

Compulsory removal. No cases dealt with.

Home Visiting.

The Assistant Tuberculosis Officer visited the homes of 54 patients during the year.

The number of cases on the register on 31st December, 1943, was 402. Of those 289 had received dispensary treatment only during the year and 113 had also received Institutional treatment.

F. A. PAUL, *Assistant Tuberculosis Officer.*

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1943.**Analysis of Inspections, 1943.**

Under Public Health and Housing Acts	....	....	....	....	3,208
Van Dwellings	....	....	....	....	138
Common Lodging Houses	....	....	....	....	37
Overcrowded Houses	....	....	....	....	17
Interviews with Owners and Builders	....	....	....	....	1,069
Yards and Courts	....	....	....	....	116
Back-to-back Houses	....	....	....	....	16
Total Inspections of Housing Conditions					4,601
Abattoir	....	....	....	....	748
Emergency Slaughter	....	....	....	....	280
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	110
Cowsheds	....	....	....	....	112
Milk Retailers	....	....	....	....	257
Ice Cream Premises	....	....	....	....	4
Fried Fish Shops and Offensive Trades	....	....	....	....	67
Markets	....	....	....	....	200
Food premises other than Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	312
Sampling	....	....	....	....	353
Food Poisoning	....	....	....	....	4
Canned Food and Provisions	....	....	....	....	260
Inspections with reference to Food					2,707

Verminous Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	90
Pharmacy and Poisons Act	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	50
Visits after Infectious Disease	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	531
Factories, Workshops, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	152
Drain Testing	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	27
Rat Inspections	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	225
Piggeries	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	84
Investigation of Complaints	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	683
Places of Public Entertainment	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
Sundry Inspections	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	585
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	26
Scabies	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	438
Ineffective Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	636
Total of other Inspections								3,548
Shelters	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	44
Collection of Gas Masks	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	71
Static Water Mosquito Control	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
Control Centre	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Total Visits in connection with Civil Defence								133
1. Housing Conditions	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4,601
2. Food	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2,707
3. Other Inspections	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3,548
4. Civil Defence	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	133
Total Visits								10,989

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year 163 samples of milk, 6 of spirit, 4 of Anti-gas Ointment No. 2, 1 of Condensed Machine Skimmed Milk and 1 of Granulated Beet Sugar have been taken for analysis.

The 163 samples of milk included 136 informal, 24 formal and 3 appeal to Cow samples. ~~Eleven~~ ^{one} hundred and ~~eight~~ ^{eighteen} informal and 14 formal samples complied with the standard of the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939. Eleven informal and 10 formal samples were below standard. Seven informal and 2 appeal to cow samples were below standard in non-fatty solids, but were genuine when judged by the freezing points. One appeal to cow sample was 17.6% deficient in milk fat.

One sample of rum was reported to be 43.08 degrees under proof. Proceedings were taken and the defendant was fined £3 with £2 2s. 0d. costs.

The samples of Anti-gas Ointment and Condensed Machine Skimmed Milk were genuine or up to the required standard.

The sample of Granulated Beet Sugar was found to contain a percentage of Epsom Salts and, after investigation, it was found that the adulteration had inadvertendly occurred in the home of the purchaser, by a child.

Milk (Special Designation) Orders, 1936-1942.

Seventeen licences were in force under the Orders as :—

Accredited—9 Producers, 2 Supplementary, 1 Bottling.

Tuberculin Tested—1 Bottling.

Tuberculin Tested Certified—3 Supplementary.

Pasteurised—1.

Fifty-seven samples of Designated milk were examined, comprising 25 Accredited, 30 Tuberculin Tested and 2 Pasteurised. Of these, 30 were of morning yield ; 25 of afternoon yield (milk from 14 to 18 hours old) and the 2 Pasteurised Milk samples which were of mixed yields.

Fourteen Accredited, 17 Tuberculin Tested and 2 Pasteurised samples complied with the requirements of the respective Orders. Five Accredited, and 11 Tuberculin Tested samples failed in the B. Coli Test, whilst 6 Accredited and 2 Tuberculin Tested samples did not comply with either the Methylene Blue or B. Coli Tests.

Bacteriological Examination of Undesignated Milk.

One hundred and fourteen samples of Undesignated Milk were taken and submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Forty-four samples were up to the old Grade "A" standard, 13 samples were slightly below this standard, 24 samples gave a total count of 100,000 and over, but re-action for B. Coli in 0.001 ml, and 24 samples gave a positive re-action for B. Coli in 0.001 and 0.0001 of a ml. Nine samples gave a total count of over 500,000 organisms per ml with positive re-actions for the presence of B. Coli in 0.001 and 0.0001 ml, the highest counts ranged between 662,000 and 5,250,000 organisms per ml.

It is a matter for regret that the quality of cleanliness in milk has so deteriorated during the year. Many producers have been pressed into milk production whose premises were quite unsuitable ; in many instances inadequate water supplies were a most striking feature. Shortage of labour generally and of skilled labour in particular on the farms has contributed to these adverse results, which appear to make a good case for pasteurisation of all supplies, at least until normal conditions return.

Tubercle Bacilli.—Twelve samples of milk were taken for Biological Test for the detection of *Tubercle Bacilli*. All the samples gave negative results.

Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

During the year 1943 the total number of animals slaughtered was 27,133, including 518 emergencies.

This number is made up of 1,024 cows, 3,436 bovines, 16,377 sheep, 606 pigs, 5,690 calves.

The total weight of food condemned and destroyed was 64 tons 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwts., of which 28 tons 15 cwts. 5 stones were on account of tuberculosis. All the above was surrendered voluntarily.

In addition to the above, 2 tons, 18 cwts. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ stones of Food were examined by the Officers of this department and referred to the Ministry of Food, Salvage Department.

A. E. WADE, *Senior Sanitary Inspector.*



